1 ESDRAS 3

1611 KING JAMES VERSION

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3:1 Now when Darius reigned, he made a great feast unto all his Subjects and unto all his household, and unto all the princes of Media and Persia,

3:2 And to all the

governors and captains, and lieutenants that were under him, from India unto Ethiopia, of an hundred twenty and seven provinces.

3:3 And when they had eaten and

drunken, and being satisfied were gone home, then Darius the king went into his bed chamber, and slept, and soon after awaked.

3:4 Then three young men that were of the guard,

that kept the kings body, spake one to another:

3:5 Let every one of us speak a sentence: he that shall overcome, and whose sentence shall seem wiser than the others, unto

him shall the king Darius give great gifts, and great things in token of victory:

3:6 As to be clothed in purple, to drink in gold, and to sleep upon gold, and a chariot with bridles of

gold, and an
headtire of fine
linen, and a chain
about his neck:
3:7 And he shall sit
next to Darius,
because of his
wisdom, and shall
be called, Darius
his cousin.
3:8 And then every

one wrote his sentence, sealed it, and laid it under king Darius his pillow, 3:9 And said, that when the king is risen, some will give him the writings, and of whose side the king, and the three

princes of Persia shall judge, that his sentence is the wisest, to him shall the victory be given as was appointed.

3:10 The first wrote: Wine is the strongest.

3:11 The second

wrote, The king is strongest.

3:12 The third wrote, Women are strongest: but above all things Truth beareth away the victory.

3:13 Now when the king was risen up, they took their

writings, and delivered them unto him, and so he read them:

3:14 And sending forth he called all the princes of Persia and Media, and the governors, and the captains, and the

lieutenants, and the chief officers;
3:15 And sat him down in the royal seat of judgment; and the writings were read before them.
3:16 And he said, Call the young men, and they

shall declare their own sentences. So they were called, and came in. 3:17 And he said unto them, Declare unto us your mind concerning the writings. Then began the first, who had spoken

of the strength
of wine;
3:18 And he said
thus, O ye men,
how exceeding
strong is wine! it
causeth all men to
err that drink it:
3:19 It maketh
the mind of the
king and of the

fatherless child to be all one; of the bondman and of the freeman, of the poor man and of the rich:

3:20 It turneth also every thought into jollity and mirth,

so that a man
remembereth
neither sorrow
nor debt:
3:21 And it maketh
every heart rich, so
that a man
remembereth
neither king nor
governor; and it
maketh to speak

all things by talents:

3:22 And when they are in their cups, they forget their love both to friends and brethren, and a little after draw out swords:

3:23 But when they

are from the wine, they remember not what they have done.

3:24 O ye men, is not wine the strongest, that enforceth to do thus? And when he had so spoken, he held his peace.